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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : We will again consider the situation when that contingency arises.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : May I know whether the Government made a profit in the whole transaction or whether the scheme was worked on a 'no profit no loss' basis?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : There is no question of profit. The Government of India undertook to make good the deficit in the matter.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : The very fact that 3,000 to 4,000 tons of rice were sold through fair price shops is a clear pointer to the fact that there is heavy demand at the shops.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : There is no particular attraction about fair price shops as such. Wherever fairly good rice is sold, it is taken advantage of by the people.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : May I know whether the object of bringing down the price level has been achieved by the opening of the fair price shops?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The main object was that the poor people should be enabled to get rice at lower prices when the prices soared very high.

Wheat allotted to the Madras State

* 52 *Q.*—SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(*a*) the quantity of wheat allotted to the Madras State for the year 1957–58; and

(*b*) the price per ton at which it is supplied?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) During the ten months in 1957–58, a quantity of 53,893 tons of wheat has been allotted to the Madras State. Figures for February and March 1958 are not available.

(*b*) Wheat is supplied by the Government of India at Rs. 381·01 per ton, ex-godown.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Is the Hon. Minister aware of a Press report that wheat is being sold at fairly cheap prices and that merchants are buying wheat in large quantities and exporting the same outside Madras?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : That has not been brought to my notice. If wheat is not required here and if it is sold outside, we need not very much worry about it.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : I think my question has not been clearly understood or I did not put my question clearly. Because the prices at which wheat is sold in Madras are cheaper, merchants purchase wheat here and export the same.

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I have understood the question of the hon. Member all right. Even if that is so—I cannot say it is so—the hon. Member need not very much worry about it.

SRI V. CHAKKARAI CHETTY : Can Government make any profit out of this as commercial agents do?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I may tell the hon. Member that the Government of India are subsidizing this transaction.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : The Hon. the Minister for Agriculture has appealed to the people down south to take to mixed diet, i.e., wheat and rice. May I know how far this appeal has been successful in Governmental and Ministerial quarters?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Government do not run canteens. It is left to the taste of individual Ministers to have mixed diet or not. But they are not averse to taking wheat.

State Tourist Advisory Committee

* 53 *Q*.—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal before the Government to constitute a State Tourist Advisory Committee; and

(*b*) if so, the rules framed or proposed to be framed for the purpose?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter is under consideration and the question of framing rules has not been taken up.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Have not model rules for the constitution of State Tourist Advisory Committees been remitted to us by the Central Ministry of Transport and Tourism? Will Government take action on the same?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : It is only in June 1957, at the Simla Conference, that it was decided that we should constitute committees at State level and we are taking action.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Is it not a fact that the Central Tourist Committee has branches throughout the States?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : There is a Regional Tourist Advisory Committee at Madras. In addition to that, in order to co-ordinate the activities of the various centres in the State, they want a State Advisory Committee.